

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 27592 01 OF 02 231829Z

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CU-02 IOE-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SP-02 EUR-08 NEA-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 L-01 PRS-01

OES-02 /051 W

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O R 231725Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4514

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 27592

LIMDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO, ISRAEL

SUBJECT: UNESCO-ISRAELI ARGUMENT RE TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR LEMAIRE VISIT TO JERUSALEM

REF: STATE 245342

1. ACTING ON REFTTEL, DEPUTY PERMREP HAD LONG CONVERSA-
TION OCTOBER 22 ON SUBJECT ISSUE WITH GERARD BOLLA
(SWISS), DIRECTOR, UNESCO CULTURAL HERITAGE DEPARTMENT
AND NOW ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
HUMANITIES AND CULTURE SECTOR. DISPUTE STEMS FROM
BOLLA'S FRANKLY ADMITTED INITIAL ERROR IN DRAFTING
LETTER FROM DG TO ISRAELI PERMREP THAT EXPRESSED DG'S
HOPE FOR GOI "AGREEMENT" TO ALLOWING LEMAIRE TO VISIT
JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS SITE. THIS PHRASE, WITH ITS
CLEAR SUGGESTION THAT GOI EXERCISES FORMAL SOVEREIGNTY
OVER JERUSALEM, IS IN CONTRAVENTION OF UNGA AND
UN SECURITY COUNCIL DECISIONS WHICH SPECIFICALLY DENY
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PAGE 02 PARIS 27592 01 OF 02 231829Z

GOI SUCH SOVEREIGNTY.

2. GOI'S BAR YACOV, OF COURSE, QUICKLY AGREED TO THIS DRAFT IN EARLY JULY MEETING WITH BOLLA WHO EXPRESSED INITIAL SECRETARIAT CLEARANCE OF THIS DRAFT, BUT WHO STATES HE ALSO MADE EXPLICIT RESERVATION THAT THIS TEXT WAS SUBJECT TO DG M'BOW'S FINAL APPROVAL.

3. WHEN LATER REVIEWING TEXT, M'BOW CAUGHT ERROR OF REQUESTING "AGREEMENT" WHICH, IF LEFT UNCHANGED, WOULD HAVE PUT HIM IN POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING POSITION, AS A UN AGENCY HEAD, OF VIOLATING AN IMPORTANT UN DECISION. ACCORDINGLY, LETTER WAS RE-WORDED TO REQUEST ISRAELI COOPERATION WITH LEMAIRE. BOLLA SAID THAT GOI REFUSED TO ACCEPT THIS CHANGE, EVEN THOUGH LETTER DELIBERATELY NOT RPT NOT BASED ON 18 GENERAL CONFERENCE RES. 3.427 WHICH CONDEMNS ISRAEL.

4. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE. TEXT OF AUG. 26, 1975
LETTER SENT BY DG M'BOW TO ISRAELI PERMREP YAPOU:
"WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF RESOLUTION 3.423 ADOPTED BY THE 18 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO, I PROPOSE TO ASK PROFESSOR LEMAIRE TO VISIT JERUSALEM EARLY IN OCTOBER AS MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND TO REPORT TO ME AFTERWARDS.

"I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD KINDLY SO INFORM YOUR GOVERNMENT AND CONVEY TO IT MY HOPE THAT PROFESSOR LEMAIRE WILL BE ACCORDED ALL THE FACILITIES NECESSARY FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HIS MISSION."

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PAGE 01 PARIS 27592 02 OF 02 231734Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4515
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 27592

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BOLLA SAID THAT IF, HOWEVER, GOI WOULD LIKE TO USE WORD "AGREEMENT" IN THEIR REPLY TO ABOVE LETTER (E.G. . . . WE AGREE TO HAVE PROF. LEMAIRE TO VISIT JERUSALEM;" OR ". . . GOI IS WILLING TO GIVE ITS APPROVAL (OR AGREEMENT) TO HIS VISIT," ETC), DG WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION, BECAUSE HE IS PERFECTLY AWARE THAT WITHOUT GOI "APPROVAL" OR "AGREEMENT" LEMAIRE CAN NOT MAKE HIS SCHEDULED VISIT.

5. HOWEVER, ABOVE MIS-UNDERSTANDING, IN PERMDEL OPINION, IS SYMPTOMATIC INDICATION OF MORE BASIC, UNDERLYING MISTRUST AND SUSPICION THAT UNESCO SECRETARIAT (NOTABLY, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY M'BOW) AND GOI (PRINCIPALLY, BUT NOT SOLELY BAR YAACOV) HARBOR TOWARDS EACH OTHER.

6. IN OUR VIEW BASIC UNESCO-ISRAELI IMPASSE IS NOT ONE THAT WILL BE RESOLVED BY A SERIES OF LIMITED TACTICAL MOVES, UNLESS THERE IS UNDERLYING SINCERE WISH BY GOI TO REDUCE RATHER THAN, AS SEEMS APPARENT, TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PARIS 27592 02 OF 02 231734Z

TENSIONS. PERMDEL WOULD RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT OR AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV SIGNAL TO GOI THAT WE WOULD LOOK WITH FAVOR UPON A PROPOSED VISIT BY LEMAIRE AS A WAY TO CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE AND PROVIDING BASIS FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER MOVEMENT ON JERUSALEM ISSUE. GOI SHOULD BE URGED TO CONTINUE COOPERATION WITH LEMAIRE WHOSE PAST REPORTS APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY EDITED BY UNESCO BEFORE DISTRIBUTED IN PART AS EXBD DOCUMENTS TO AVOID EMBARRASSING GOI AS FAR AS POSSIBLE REGARDING THEIR NEW CONSTRUCTION IN JERUSALEM AND CONTINUING ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS.
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